follows immunization in about 50 percent of females more than 20 years of age and 5 to 12 percent of children and, (6) the embryopathic potential of the vaccine virus is not known. Because of this, the vaccine is contraindicated in pregnant women and vaccine administration to any postpubertal females must be approached with caution. Indeed, vaccine has been inadvertently administered to over 100 pregnant females already. At present the U.S. Public Health Service has recommended that children in kindergarten and the early grades of elementary school deserve initial priority for vaccination. Because of reinfection, the unknown embryopathic potential and the reported temporally associated neurological reactions, a vaccine surveillance system must be included in any vaccine program.

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Newborn Special Care

A major advance in health care during the past decade has been in newborn special care. Here all infants requiring special observation or special or intensive care—whether medical, surgical, diagnostic or therapeutic, infected or non-infected, full-term or premature, outborn or inborn—are admitted to one area specially equipped and staffed with specially trained personnel to provide to infants the attention required.

These units followed the demonstration that airborne transmission of bacteria in nurseries is inconsequential; direct transmission among infants by dirty hands from the infants' skins and cords acting as culture media are the mode and source of bacterial transfer. Antiseptic cord and skin care of infants and hand washing by personnel prevent bacteria spread.

All hospitals delivering newborns require care areas near delivery rooms for acutely stressed infants. Definitive nursery care also must be provided in the same or in a different area. Extensive planning is needed, including provision of nurse and physician training programs, to help achieve this.

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Effects of Perinatal Nutrition on CNS Development and Function

Severe malnutrition during the first year of life will result in a reduced number of cells in the brain. This reduction is present within all regions studied, with the most pronounced effects in the cerebrum. Total cholesterol and phospholipid content are also reduced. These studies reinforce previous data in rats and pigs which demonstrated that cell division and myelination were curtailed in brain during neonatal malnutrition.

Evidence is also mounting in animals that severe maternal undernutrition will curtail cell division in the fetal brain. In the human several reports indicate that cell division is slowed down in placentas of malnourished mothers. Although more data are necessary, these studies raise serious doubts about the human fetus as a "parasite" and suggest that severe undernutrition during pregnancy may affect fetal growth and development.

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